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Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 033455-002



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)	
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John K. Donovan)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
)	
Application No.: Unassigned)	Examiner: Unassigned
)	
Filed: January 28, 2002)	
)	
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR)	
COUNTERING TERRORISM AND)	
MONITORING VISITORS FROM)	
ABROAD)	

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER MPEP §708.03 (XI) (INVENTIONS FOR COUNTERING TERRORISM)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicant requests that the above-identified application be made special under MPEP §708.03 (XI) and be given expedited examination. This petition is accompanied by the appropriate fee.

The invention contributes to countering terrorism by providing methods and systems for monitoring non-immigrant visa holders using the internet. It has been recognized that an inability to track foreign visitors is a great threat to national security.¹ Hidden among millions of foreign visitors are individuals who seek to commit terrorist acts. Many of such individuals stay in the U.S. in violation of their visas. For example, five of the convicted 1993 World Trade Center bombers were visa overstays. All of the nineteen hijackers

¹ See e.g., Report of Michael R. Bromwich, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice, testimony before House Judiciary Committee, March 18, 1999.

involved in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks were here on visas and six had overstayed their visas. If these individuals had been promptly identified to federal or local law enforcement officials, the September tragedies might have been averted.

Those visitors who mean to harm the U.S. by terrorism need to be identified, discouraged, disrupted and apprehended. The methods and systems of the present invention provide techniques which can be rapidly and inexpensively implemented to monitor visitors, and identify visa overstays. These methods and systems also provide intelligence gathering and intelligence dispersal techniques for identifying and thwarting potential terrorists, as set forth in detail in the application.

The subject matter of the present application is of the highest national priority, and should be examined as rapidly as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 28, 2002